



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/998,157	12/24/97	HA	I 06802148001

SCOTT C HARRIS  
FISH & RICHARDSON  
4225 EXECUTIVE SQUARE  
SUITE 1400  
LA JOLLA CA 92037

MM31/1009

EXAMINER

PHAN, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 10/09/98

**Pl ase find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
08/998,157

Applicant(s)  
IM CHEOL HA

Examiner  
Trong Phan

Group Art Unit  
2818



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec. 24, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three (3) month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1 and 5-6 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 7-9 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 2818

***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature "fifth transistors" as recited in line 2 of claim 7; the feature "fifth, sixth and seventh transistor" as recited in claims 8-9 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 6 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: the word "frist" is misspelled . Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, line 6, there is insufficient antecedent basis for "each global word line signal".

Claim 6, the "XnCOM signal" (line 3) and "a Vppx or Veex" (line 5) are

Art Unit: 2818

not defined; the phrase "to which an output voltage of said first and second transistors" is vague and indefinite for failing to clearly define the connective relationship between the third and fourth transistors with the first and second transistors.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jungroth et al., 5,621,690, cited by Applicant.

Jungroth et al., 5,621,690, cited by Applicant, discloses in Fig. 3 a flash memory device having:  
global x decoder 38 for outputting global word line signals 48-48n;  
local decoder 32 for selecting a word line in memory cell block in response to the global word line signals 48-48n.

Art Unit: 2818

***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 2-4 and 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

9. Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The decoder in a flash memory device having a global row decoder which includes a second decoding means receiving the output signal from a first decoding means and an erasure signal as recited in claim 1 has not been found in the prior art.

11. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Art Unit: 2818

***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

See Dallabora et al., 5,717,636, Anami, 5,193,074, and Sato et al., 5,546,352, generally, for the memory device having global decoder and local decoder.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trong Phan whose telephone number is (703) 308-4870.

*Phan Trong*

October 6, 1998